

1      **Listing of Claims:**

2

3      This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. As  
4      requested by the Examiner, this listing of the claims shows all amendments, and claims status,  
5      relative to the claims originally submitted by the applicant on March 3, 2006 for examination.

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7      **1. - 8.** (Canceled).

8

9      **9. - 16.** (Canceled).

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11     **17. - 154.** (Canceled).

12

13     **155. (Currently amended)**      A method for verifying whether an e-mail sent by a sending  
14      party was accessed by an intended recipient, said method comprising:

15        a) storing recipient data pertaining to at least one party an actual recipient of e-mail in a  
16      data file on a computer associated with said at least one party for purposes of retrieving e-mail, said  
17      stored recipient data file containing identifying data that identifies said at least one party actual e-  
18      mail recipient and further being associated with said actual recipient's email address;

19        b) transmitting an e-mail from a sender computer to an intended recipient, the sender  
20      computer being connected to a communications network;

21        c) delivering said e-mail to a recipient e-mail address;

22        d) detecting an access event, and discovering the said stored recipient data file that is  
23      associated with said actual recipient's e-mail address that identifies the recipient associated with the  
24      recipient e-mail address to which such e-mail was delivered; and

25        e) generating a confirmation of receipt notice wherein the discovered recipient data is  
26      included in said confirmation of receipt notice; and

1           f) sending identifying data contained in said discovered data file for confirming proper  
2 ~~delivery of said e-mail~~ said confirmation of receipt notice, wherein the discovered recipient data  
3 contained in said confirmation of receipt notice can be compared to delivery information associated  
4 with said intended recipient in order to verify whether the e-mail was accessed by the intended  
5 recipient .  
6

7       **156. Canceled.**

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9       **157. (Currently amended)**     The method as in claim 155, wherein said access event  
10 comprises access of said e-mail that was delivered to said actual recipient e-mail address.

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12       **158. (Currently amended)** The method as in claim 155, wherein said access event comprises  
13 access of an email account associated with said actual recipient e-mail address.

14

15       **159. (Currently amended)** The method as in claim 155, wherein said access event comprises  
16 activation of an e-mail processing software associated with said actual recipient e-mail address.

17

18       **160. (Currently amended)** The method as in claim 155, further comprising the steps of:  
19 ~~wherein the step of transmitting an e-mail from a sender computer includes attaching transmitting~~  
20 ~~and delivering to the recipient e-mail address an executable attachment file in conjunction with the~~  
21 ~~e-mail file, the executable attachment file having a first module for discovering the stored data file~~  
22 ~~that is associated with said actual recipient's email address, a second module for generating the~~  
23 ~~confirmation of receipt notice, and a third module for transmitting the confirmation of receipt~~  
24 ~~notice,~~

1       and upon the detection of the access event, automatically executing the first, second, and  
2       third modules of the executable attachment file and wherein the step of detecting an access event  
3       includes the step of executing the first module of the executable attachment file .

4  
5       **161. (Currently Amended)**       The method as in claim 160, wherein the executable  
6       attachment file has a ~~fourth~~ second module transmitted and delivered therewith, the ~~fourth~~ second  
7       module for detecting the access event, and

8                   further comprising the step of:

9                   automatically executing the ~~fourth~~ second module upon delivery of the attachment file to  
10          the actual recipient e-mail address.

11  
12       **162. Canceled.**

13  
14       **163. (Currently amended)**   The method as in claim 155, wherein said computer is a actual  
15          recipient email address is associated with a recipient computer.

16  
17       **164. (Previously presented)**   The method as in claim 163, wherein said recipient computer is a  
18          server of a service provider.

19  
20       **165. (Currently amended)**   The method as in claim 163, wherein said recipient computer is a  
21          user system that is directly accessible by the actual recipient, said user system including electronic  
22          mail processing software ~~and being capable of receiving e-mail.~~

23  
24       **166. (Currently amended)**   The method as in claim 155, wherein said computer is a remote  
25          user computer may be used to from which said recipient may gain remote access to said actual  
26          recipient e-mail address.

1       **167. (Currently amended)** The method as in claim 155, wherein said identifying data  
2       contained in said stored recipient data file pertains to alphanumeric text identification, biometric  
3       identification, password identification, a computer generated user code, or a combination thereof.

4

5       **168. (Currently amended)**           The method as in claim 155, wherein said stored recipient  
6       data file comprises, ~~at least in part~~, identity information that identifies an individual.

7

8       **169. (Previously presented)**       The method as in claim 168, wherein said identity  
9       information pertains to biometric identification.

10

11     **170. (Currently amended)**       The method as in claim 169 further comprising means for the  
12       step of recognizing biometric attributes of an individual.

13

14     **171. (Previously presented)** The method as in claim 168, wherein said identity information  
15       includes alphanumeric text identification information.

16

17     **172. (Currently amended)**       The method as in claim 155, wherein said stored recipient  
18       data file comprises, ~~at least in part~~, information that identifies a business.

19

20     **173. (Currently amended)**       The method as in claim 155, wherein said stored recipient  
21       data file comprises, ~~at least in part~~, information that identifies an organization.

22

23     **174. (Currently amended)**       The method as in claim 155, wherein said stored recipient  
24       data file comprises, ~~at least in part~~, a computer generated user code.

1      175. **(Currently amended)** The method as in claim 155 further including the step of including  
2      in said confirmation of receipt notice sending access event data of attendant conditions attendant of  
3      said access event.

4

5      176. **(Currently amended)** The method as in claim 155, wherein said party actual  
6      recipient is an individual.

7

8      177. **(Currently amended)** The method as in claim 155, wherein said party actual  
9      recipient is a business.

10

11     178. **(Currently amended)** The method as in claim 155, wherein said party actual  
12     recipient is an organization.

13

14     179. **(Currently amended)** The method as in claim 155, wherein said confirmation of receipt  
15     notice step of sending identifying data is used to verify proper delivery of legal documents.

16

17     180. **(Currently amended)** The method as in claim 155, wherein said confirmation of receipt  
18     notice step of sending identifying data is used to verify proper delivery of confidential documents.

19

20     181. **(Currently amended)** The method as in claim 155, wherein said recipient e-mail  
21     address data file is associated with a recipient stored on a computer associated with e-mail retrieval.

22

23     182. **(Currently amended)** The method as in claim 155 +81, wherein said recipient  
24     computer is a server of a service provider that is capable of receiving e-mail identifying data for  
25     confirming proper delivery of said e-mail is sent to an e-mail address.

1       **183. Canceled.**

2

3       **184. (Currently amended)** A ~~The method for verifying whether an e-mail sent by a sending~~  
4 ~~party was accessed by an intended recipient, said method comprising:~~ as recited in claim 258  
5 wherein said step of sending recipient data for confirming proper delivery of said e-mail includes  
6 the steps of:

- 7        a) transmitting an e-mail from a sender computer to an intended recipient, the sender  
8        computer being connected to a communications network;
- 9        b) delivering said e-mail to a recipient e-mail address;
- 10      c) detecting an access event, and prompting the party who requested said access to enter  
11      recipient data prior to allowing the requested access, said recipient data identifying the party who  
12      requested said access;
- 13      d) a) generating a confirmation of receipt notice wherein the ~~entered~~ inputted recipient  
14      data is included ~~in~~ with said confirmation of receipt notice; and
- 15      e) b) sending said confirmation of receipt notice, wherein the ~~entered~~ inputted recipient  
16      data ~~contained in~~ included with said confirmation of receipt notice can be compared to delivery  
17      information associated with said intended recipient in order to verify whether the ~~email~~ e-mail was  
18      accessed by the intended recipient.

19

20       **185. (Currently amended)** The method as in claim ~~184~~ 236, wherein said access event  
21      comprises access of said e-mail that was delivered to said recipient e-mail address.

22

23       **186. (Currently amended)** The method as in claim ~~184~~ 236, wherein said access event  
24      comprises access of an ~~email~~ e-mail account associated with said recipient e-mail address.

1       **187. (Currently amended)**       The method as in claim ~~184~~ 236, wherein said access event  
2       comprises activation of an e-mail processing software associated with said recipient e-mail address.

3  
4       **188. (Currently amended)**       The method as in claim ~~184~~ 236, further comprising the steps  
5       of:

6                 transmitting and delivering to the recipient e-mail address wherein the step of transmitting  
7       an e-mail from a sender computer includes attaching an executable attachment file in conjunction  
8       with the e-mail file, the executable attachment file having a first module for prompting the party  
9       who requested said access event to enter recipient data, a second module for generating the  
10       confirmation of receipt notice, and a third module for transmitting the confirmation of receipt  
11       notice; and

12                 upon the detection of the access event, automatically executing the first, second, and third  
13       modules and wherein the step of detecting an access event includes the step of executing the first  
14       module of the executable attachment file.

15  
16       **189. (Currently amended)**       The method as in claim 188, wherein the executable  
17       attachment file has a ~~fourth~~ second module transmitted and delivered therewith, the ~~fourth~~ second  
18       module for detecting the access event, and further comprising the step of automatically executing  
19       the ~~fourth~~ second module upon delivery of the attachment file to the recipient e-mail address.

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21       **190. Canceled.**

22  
23       **191. (Currently amended)**       The method as in claim ~~184~~ 236, wherein said recipient e-  
24       mail address is associated with a recipient computer.

1      **192. (Previously presented)**      The method as in claim 191, wherein said recipient computer  
2      is a server of a service provider ~~that is capable of receiving e-mail~~ .

3

4      **193. (Currently amended)**      The method as in claim 191, wherein said recipient computer  
5      is a user system that is directly accessible by ~~the~~ a recipient, said user system including electronic  
6      mail processing software ~~and being capable of receiving e-mail~~ .

7

8      **194. (Currently amended)**      The method as in claim ~~184~~ 236, wherein said ~~entered~~  
9      inputted recipient data pertains to alphanumeric text identification, biometric identification,  
10     password identification, a computer generated user code, or a combination thereof.

11

12     **195. (Currently amended)**      The method as in claim ~~184~~ 236, wherein said ~~entered~~  
13     inputted recipient data comprises, ~~at least in part~~, identity information that identifies an individual.

14

15     **196. (Previously presented)**      The method as in claim 195, wherein said identity  
16     information pertains to biometric identification.

17

18     **197. (Currently amended)**      The method as in claim 196 further comprising means for the  
19     step of recognizing biometric attributes of an individual.

20

21     **198. (Previously presented)**      The method as in claim 195, wherein said identity  
22     information includes alphanumeric text identification information.

23

24     **199. (Currently amended)**      The method as in claim ~~184~~ 236, wherein said ~~entered~~  
25     inputted recipient data comprises, ~~at least in part~~, information that identifies a business.

1      **200. (Currently amended)**      The method as in claim ~~184~~ 236, wherein said entered  
2      inputted recipient data comprises, ~~at least in part~~, information that identifies an organization.  
3  
4      **201. (Currently amended)**      The method as in claim ~~184~~ 236, wherein said entered  
5      inputted recipient data comprises, ~~at least in part~~, a computer generated user code.  
6  
7      **202. (Currently amended)**      The method as in claim ~~184~~ 236 further including the step of  
8      including in ~~said confirmation of receipt notice~~ sending access event data of attendant conditions of  
9      said access event.  
10  
11     **203. (Currently amended)**      The method as in claim ~~184~~ 236, wherein said party recipient  
12     is an individual.  
13  
14     **204. (Currently amended)**      The method as in claim ~~184~~ 236, wherein said party  
15     recipient is a business.  
16  
17     **205. (Currently amended)**      The method as in claim ~~184~~ 236, wherein said party  
18     recipient is an organization.  
19  
20     **206. (Currently amended)**      The method as in claim ~~184~~ 236, wherein said inputted  
21     recipient data confirmation of receipt notice is used to verify proper delivery of legal documents.  
22  
23     **207. (Currently amended)**      The method as in claim ~~184~~ 236, wherein said inputted  
24     recipient data confirmation of receipt notice is used to verify proper delivery of confidential  
25     documents.  
26  
27

**208. (Currently amended)** A The method recited by claim 260 for verifying whether e-mail sent by a sending party was accessed by an intended recipient, said method comprising wherein said step of sending recipient data for confirming proper delivery of said e-mail includes the steps of:

- a) transmitting an e-mail from a sender computer to an intended recipient, the sender computer being connected to a communications network generating a confirmation of receipt notice wherein the acquired recipient data is included with said confirmation of receipt notice ; and
- b) sending said confirmation of receipt notice, wherein the acquired recipient data contained with said confirmation of receipt notice can be compared to information associated with said intended recipient in order to verify whether the email was accessed by the intended recipient.  
delivering said e-mail to a recipient e-mail address;
- c) acquiring recipient data that is related to biometric identification of the recipient;
- d) detecting an access event , and generating a confirmation of receipt notice wherein the acquired recipient data is included in said confirmation of receipt notice; and
- e) sending said confirmation of receipt notice.

**209. (Currently amended)** The method as in claim 208 260, wherein said access event comprises access of said e-mail that was delivered to said recipient e-mail address.

**210. (Currently amended)** The method as in claim 208 260, wherein said access event comprises access of an email e-mail account associated with said recipient e-mail address.

**211. (Currently amended)** The method as in claim 208 260, wherein said access event comprises activation of e-mail processing software associated with said recipient e-mail address.

**212. (Currently amended)** The method as in claim 208 260, further comprising the step

of.

transmitting and delivering to the recipient e-mail address wherein the step of transmitting  
an e-mail from a sender computer includes attaching an executable attachment file in conjunction  
with the e-mail file, the executable attachment file having a first module for acquiring recipient  
data that is related to biometric identification of the recipient, a second module for generating the  
confirmation of receipt notice, and a third module for transmitting the confirmation of receipt  
notice; and

upon the detection of the access event, automatically wherein the step of detecting an access event includes the step of executing at least the second and third modules first module of the executable attachment file.

**213. (Currently amended)** The method as in claim 212, wherein the executable attachment file has a ~~fourth~~ second module transmitted and delivered therewith, the ~~fourth~~ second module for detecting the access event, and further comprising the step of:

automatically executing the fourth second module upon delivery of the attachment file to the recipient e-mail address.

214. Canceled.

**215. (Currently amended)** The method as in claim 208 260, wherein said recipient e-mail address is associated with a recipient computer.

1      **216. (Previously presented)**      The method as in claim 215, wherein said recipient computer  
2      is a server of a service provider that is capable of receiving e-mail.

3

4      **217. (Previously presented)**      The method as in claim 215, wherein said recipient computer  
5      is a user system that is directly accessible by the recipient, said user system including electronic  
6      mail processing software and being capable of receiving e-mail.

7

8      **218. (Currently amended)**      The method as in claim 208 260, wherein said acquired  
9      recipient data is further related to a biometric imprint, alphanumeric text identification, password  
10     identification, a computer generated user code, or a combination thereof.

11

12     **219. (Currently amended)**      The method as in claim 208 260, wherein said acquired  
13     recipient data comprises identity information that identifies an individual.

14

15     **220. (Currently amended)**      The method as in claim 208 260 further comprising means  
16     for recognizing biometric attributes of an individual.

17

18     **221. (Currently amended)**      The method as in claim 208 260, wherein said acquired  
19     recipient data comprises information that identifies a business.

20

21     **222. (Currently amended)**      The method as in claim 208 260, wherein said acquired  
22     recipient data comprises information that identifies an organization.

23

24     **223. (Currently amended)**      The method as in claim 208 260, wherein said acquired  
25     recipient data comprises a computer generated user code.

26

27

1   **224. (Currently amended)**       The method as in claim 208 260 further including the step of  
2   including in said confirmation of receipt notice sending access event data of attendant conditions  
3   attendant of said access event.

4

5   **225. (Currently amended)**       The method as in claim 208 260 , wherein said recipient is an  
6   individual.

7

8   **226. (Currently amended)**       The method as in claim 208 260 , wherein said recipient is a  
9   business.

10

11   **227. (Currently amended)**       The method as in claim 208 260 , wherein said recipient is an  
12   organization.

13

14   **228. (Currently amended)**       The method as in claim 208 260 , wherein said confirmation  
15   of receipt notice sent recipient data is used to verify proper delivery of legal documents.

16

17   **229. (Currently amended)**       The method as in claim 208 260 , wherein said confirmation of  
18   receipt notice sent recipient data is used to verify proper delivery of confidential documents.

19

20   **230. (Canceled).**

21

22   **231. (Currently amended)**       The method as in claim 208 260 , wherein said recipient data  
23   is acquired as a requisite condition for permitting access to said delivered e-mail.

24

25   **232. (Currently amended)**       The method as in claim 208 260 , wherein said recipient data  
26   is acquired as a requisite condition for permitting access to said recipient e-mail address.

27

1       **233. (Currently amended)**       The method as in claim 208 260, wherein said recipient data  
2       is acquired as a requisite condition for operating a remote user computer, said remote user  
3       computer being operable to gain access to said recipient e-mail address.

4  
5       **234. (Currently amended)**       The method as in claim 208 260, wherein said recipient data  
6       is comprised of alphanumeric text, said alphanumeric text being associated with the at least one  
7       biometric attribute of said recipient.

8  
9       **235. (Currently amended)**       A The method as recited in claim 256 wherein the step of  
10      for verifying whether an e-mail sent by a sending at least some of the discovered identifying data  
11      for confirming proper delivery of said e-mail includes the steps of party was accessed by an  
12      intended recipient, said method comprising :

- 13           a) storing recipient data on a computer associated with e-mail retrieval, said stored  
14          recipient data identifying a particular party;
- 15           b) transmitting an e-mail from a sender computer to the intended recipient, the sender  
16          computer being connected to a communications network;
- 17           c) delivering said e-mail to a recipient e-mail address;
- 18           d) detecting an access event, and discovering the stored recipient data that identifies the  
19          party associated with the recipient e-mail address to which such email was delivered;
- 20           e) generating a confirmation of receipt notice wherein the acquired the discovered recipient  
21          data identifying data is included in with said confirmation of receipt notice; and
- 22           f) b) sending said confirmation of receipt notice wherein the acquired identifying data  
23          contained with said confirmation of receipt notice can be compared to information associated with  
24          said intended recipient in order to verify whether the e-mail was accessed by the intended recipient

**1 236. (Currently amended)** A method for verifying whether an e-mail sent by a sending  
2 party was accessed by an intended recipient, said method comprising:

a) transmitting an e-mail from a sender computer to an intended recipient, the sender computer being connected to a communications network;

b) delivering said e-mail to a recipient e-mail address;

c) detecting an access event, and prompting the party associated with said access event to

enter input recipient data prior to allowing the requested access, said recipient data including identifying data related to the party associated with said requested access; and

d) generating a confirmation of receipt notice wherein the entered recipient data is included in said confirmation of receipt notice; and

—e) sending said confirmation of receipt notice recipient data for confirming proper delivery  
of said e-mail.

13  
14 237. (Currently amended) A The method for verifying whether e-mail sent by a sending  
15 party was accessed by an intended recipient, said method comprising recited by claim 264 wherein  
16 the step of sending data that identifies said recipient for confirming proper delivery of said e-mail  
17 includes the steps of :

a) generating a confirmation of receipt notice wherein the data that identifies the recipient is included with said confirmation of receipt notice transmitting an e-mail from a sender computer to an intended recipient the sender computer being connected to a communications network; and

b) sending said confirmation of receipt notice, wherein the data that identifies the recipient that is included with said confirmation of receipt notice can be compared to information associated with said intended recipient in order to verify whether the email was accessed by the intended recipient, delivering said e-mail to a recipient e-mail address.

#### **Classification of subjects in linguistic identification**

- d) detecting an access event, and generating a confirmation of receipt notice wherein data that identifies said recipient is included in said confirmation of receipt notice; and
- e) sending said confirmation of receipt notice.

**238. (Currently amended)** The method as in claim 237 264, wherein said data that identifies said recipient is related to a biometric imprint, alphanumeric text identification, password identification, a computer generated user code, or a combination thereof.

**239. (Currently amended)** The method as in claim 237 264, wherein the data that identifies said recipient data is comprised of alphanumeric text, said alphanumeric text being associated with the at least one biometric attribute of said recipient.

**240. (Currently amended)** The method as in claim 237 264 further including the step of comprising means for recognizing biometric attributes of an individual.

**241. (Currently amended)** The method as in claim 237 264, wherein said data that identifies said recipient comprises identity information that identifies an individual.

**242. (Currently amended)** The method as in claim 237 264, wherein said data that identifies said recipient comprises information that identifies a business.

**243. (Currently amended)** The method as in claim 237 264, wherein said data that identifies said recipient comprises information that identifies an organization.

**244. (Currently amended)** A system for verifying whether e-mail sent by a sending party was accessed by an intended recipient, said system comprising:

a) a sender computer connected to a communications network and from which an email is transmitted;

b) a recipient computer connected to said communications network, said recipient computer capable of receiving said transmitted e-mail and further having a data storage means for storing said received e-mail;

c) recipient a data file stored on a computer associated with the intended recipient e-mail retrieval , said stored recipient data file associated with a particular recipient e-mail address and identifying a party associated with said particular e-mail address;

d) software capable of detecting an access event, wherein, upon detecting said access event, said software ~~executes the steps of:~~

i. retrieving discovers the stored recipient data file that is associated with the particular e-mail address to which said e-mail was delivered identifies the party associated with said particular recipient e-mail address to which such email was delivered ; and

ii. including the acquired recipient stored data file in a confirmation of receipt notice; and

e) means for sending the discovered data file for confirming proper delivery of said e-mail  
~~transmitting said confirmation of receipt notice to an e-mail address associated with said sending party .~~

**245. (Currently amended)** The system as in claim 244 275, wherein said access event comprises access of a delivered e-mail.

**246. (Currently amended)** The system as in claim 244 275, wherein said access event comprises access of an e-mail account associated with the e-mail address to which said e-mail was delivered.

1       **247. (Currently amended)**       The system as in claim 244 275, wherein said access event  
2       comprises activation of the e-mail processing software associated with the e-mail address to which  
3       said e-mail was delivered.

4

5       **248. (Currently amended)**       A system for verifying whether e-mail sent by a sending party  
6       was accessed by an intended recipient, said system comprising:

7              a) a sender computer connected to a communications network and from which an e-  
8       mail is transmitted;

9              b) a recipient computer connected to said communications network, said recipient  
10      computer capable of receiving said transmitted e-mail and further having data storage means for  
11      storing said received e-mail;

12              c) software capable of detecting an access event, wherein, upon detecting said access  
13      event, said software :

14                  i. prompts the party associated with said access event to enter input recipient data  
15                  prior to allowing the requested access, ~~if no such recipient data pertaining to said~~  
16                  ~~party has been entered prior to said access event,~~ said recipient data comprising  
17                  identifying data related to the party associated with said requested access; and

18                  ii. includes the acquired recipient data in a confirmation of receipt notice; and

19                  e) d) means for sending recipient data for confirming proper delivery of said e-mail  
20                  transmitting ~~said confirmation of receipt notice to an e-mail address~~ associated with said  
21                  sending party .

22

23       **249. (Previously presented)** The system as in claim 248, wherein said access event comprises  
24       access of a delivered e-mail.

**250. (Previously presented)** The system as in claim 248, wherein said access event comprises access of an e-mail account associated with the e-mail address to which said e-mail was delivered.

**251. (Currently amended)** The system as in claim 248, wherein said access event comprises activation of the e-mail processing software associated with the e-mail address to which said e-mail was delivered.

**252. (Currently amended)** A system for verifying whether e-mail sent by a sending party was accessed by an intended recipient, said system comprising:

- a) a sender computer connected to a communications network and from which an e-mail is transmitted;
- b) a recipient computer connected to said communications network, said recipient computer being capable of receiving said transmitted e-mail and further having data storage means for storing said received e-mail;
- c) biometric identification means for recognizing biometric attributes of an individual;
- d) software capable of detecting an access event and identifying an individual through utilization of inputted biometric attributes of said individual, ~~said software also being capable of acquiring biometric data identifying the party causing said access event, and including the acquired data in a confirmation of receipt notice~~ ; and
- e) means for sending data that identifies said individual for confirming proper delivery of said e-mail. ~~transmitting said confirmation of receipt notice to an e-mail address associated with said sending party~~.

**253. (Previously presented)** The system as in claim 252, wherein said access event comprises access of a delivered e-mail.

1   **254. (Previously presented)**     The system as in claim 252, wherein said access event  
2   comprises access of an e-mail account associated with the e-mail address to which said e-mail was  
3   delivered.

5     **255. (Currently amended)** The system as in claim 252, wherein said access event comprises  
6     activation of the e-mail processing software associated with the e-mail address to which said e-mail  
7     was delivered.

9    256. (New) A method for verifying whether an e-mail sent by a sending party was accessed by  
10 an intended recipient, said method comprising:

- a) storing recipient data in a data file, said data file containing identifying data that identifies a recipient of e-mail and being associated with said recipient's e-mail address;
- b) transmitting an e-mail from a sender computer to an intended recipient, the sender computer being connected to a communications network;
- c) delivering said e-mail to an e-mail address;
- d) detecting an access event, and discovering the stored data file that is associated with the e-mail address to which said e-mail was delivered; and
- e) sending at least some of the identifying data contained in said discovered data file for confirming proper delivery of said e-mail.

21     **257. (New) A method for verifying whether an e-mail sent by a sending party was accessed by an**  
22     **intended recipient, said method comprising:**

- a) storing recipient data in a data file, said data file containing identifying data that identifies a recipient of e-mail and being associated with said recipient's e-mail address;
- b) transmitting an e-mail from a sender computer to an intended recipient, the sender computer being connected to a communications network;

1                   c) delivering said e-mail to an e-mail address;  
2                   d) detecting an access event, and discovering the stored data file that is associated with the  
3                   e-mail address to which said e-mail was delivered; and  
4                   e) sending the discovered data file for confirming proper delivery of said e-mail.

5

6 **258. (New)** A method for verifying whether an e-mail sent by a sending party was accessed by an  
7 intended recipient, said method comprising:

8                   a) transmitting an e-mail from a sender computer to an intended recipient, the sender  
9                   computer being connected to a communications network;  
10                  b) delivering said e-mail to an e-mail address;  
11                  c) detecting an access event, and prompting the party that requested said access to input  
12                  recipient data prior to allowing the requested access, said recipient data including identifying data  
13                  that is associated with the party that requested said access; and  
14                  d) sending recipient data for confirming proper delivery of said e-mail.

15

16 **259. (New)** The method recited by claim 236 wherein said step of sending recipient data for  
17 confirming proper delivery of said e-mail includes the steps of:

18                  a) generating a confirmation of receipt notice wherein the inputted recipient data is included  
19                  with said confirmation of receipt notice; and  
20                  b) sending said confirmation of receipt notice, wherein the inputted recipient data included  
21                  with said confirmation of receipt notice can be compared to information associated with said  
22                  intended recipient in order to verify whether the e-mail was accessed by the intended recipient.

23

24 **260. (New)** A method for verifying whether e-mail sent by a sending party was accessed by an  
25 intended recipient, said method comprising:

26                  a) transmitting an e-mail from a sender computer to an intended recipient, the sender

1 computer being connected to a communications network;

2       b) delivering said e-mail to a recipient e-mail address;

3       c) detecting an access event;

4       d) acquiring recipient data that is related to biometric identification of the recipient; and

5       e) sending recipient data for confirming proper delivery of said e-mail.

6

7 **261. (New)** The method as recited in claim 260 wherein said recipient data is acquired prior to

8 said access event.

9

10 **262. (New)** The method as recited in claim 260 wherein said recipient data is acquired after said

11 access event.

12

13 **263. (New)** The method as recited in claim 260 wherein said recipient data is sent to an e-mail

14 address.

15

16 **264. (New)** A method for verifying whether e-mail sent by a sending party was accessed by an

17 intended recipient, said method comprising:

18       a) transmitting an e-mail from a sender computer to an intended recipient, the sender

19 computer being connected to a communications network;

20       b) delivering said e-mail to an e-mail address;

21       c) identifying a recipient utilizing biometric identification;

22       d) detecting an access event; and

23       e) sending data that identifies said recipient for confirming proper delivery of said e-mail.

24

25 **265. (New)** The method as recited in claim 264 wherein said recipient is identified prior to said

26 access event.

1   **266. (New)** The method as recited in claim 264 wherein said recipient is identified after said  
2   access event.

3  
4   **267. (New)** The method as recited in claim 264 wherein said data that identifies said recipient is  
5   sent to an e-mail address.

6  
7   **268. (New)** A method for verifying whether e-mail sent by a sending party was accessed by an  
8   intended recipient, said method comprising:

- 9       a) transmitting an e-mail from a sender computer to an intended recipient, the sender  
10      computer being connected to a communications network;
- 11      b) delivering said e-mail to an e-mail address;
- 12      c) identifying a recipient in association with biometric identification;
- 13      d) detecting an access event; and
- 14      e) sending data that identifies said recipient for confirming proper delivery of said e-mail.

15  
16   **269. (New)** The method as in claim 268 wherein said recipient is identified prior to said access event.

17  
18   **270. (New)** The method as in claim 268 wherein said recipient is identified after said access event.

19  
20   **271. (New)** The method as in claim 268 wherein said data that identifies said recipient is sent to  
21   an e-mail address.

22  
23   **272. (New)** A method for verifying whether an e-mail sent by a sending party was accessed by an  
24   intended recipient, said method comprising:

- 25      a) storing recipient data on a storage element of a computer that is used by a recipient of e-  
26      mail to access e-mail, said recipient data including identifying data that is associated with a

1 recipient of e-mail;

2       b) transmitting an e-mail from a sender computer to an intended recipient, the sender

3 computer being connected to a communications network;

4       c) delivering said e-mail to a recipient e-mail address;

5       d) detecting an access event and discovering at least part of said stored recipient data that is

6 associated with said recipient;

7       e) sending at least part of said discovered recipient data for confirming proper delivery of

8 said e-mail.

9

10 **273. (New)** The method recited in claim 272 wherein said recipient of e-mail is an actual recipient

11 of said e-mail.

12

13 **274. (New)** The method recited in claim 244 wherein said recipient of e-mail is an actual recipient

14 of said e-mail.

15

16 **275. (New)** A system for verifying whether e-mail sent by a sending party was accessed by an

17 intended recipient, said system comprising:

18       a) a sender computer connected to a communications network and from which an e-mail is

19 transmitted;

20       b) a recipient computer connected to said communications network, said recipient computer

21 capable of receiving said transmitted e-mail and further having a data storage for storing said

22 received e-mail;

23       c) a data file stored on a computer, said stored data file containing identifying data

24 pertaining to a party and associated with said party's e-mail address;

1           d) software capable of detecting an access event, wherein, upon detecting said access  
2 event, said software discovers identifying data contained in said stored data file that is associated  
3 with the e-mail address to which said e-mail was delivered; and  
4           e) means for sending identifying data for confirming proper delivery of said e-mail.

5

6 **276. (New)** The system as recited in claim 275 wherein said recipient of e-mail is an actual  
7 recipient of said e-mail.

8

9 **277. (New)** The system as recited in claim 275 wherein said identifying data for confirming  
10 proper delivery of said e-mail is sent to an e-mail address.

11

12 **278. (New)** A system for verifying whether e-mail sent by a sending party was accessed by an  
13 intended recipient, said system comprising:

14           a) a sender computer connected to a communications network and from which an e-mail is  
15 transmitted;

16           b) a recipient computer connected to said communications network, said recipient computer  
17 capable of receiving said transmitted e-mail and further having a data storage for storing said  
18 received e-mail;

19           c) recipient data stored on the data storage of a computer that is used by a recipient of e-  
20 mail to access e-mail, said recipient data including identifying data that is associated with a  
21 recipient of e-mail;

22           d) software capable of detecting an access event, wherein, upon detecting said access  
23 event, said software discovers at least part of said stored recipient data that is associated with said  
24 recipient; and

25           e) means for sending at least part of said discovered recipient data for confirming proper  
26 delivery of said e-mail.

**279. (New)** The system as in claim 252, wherein said data that identifies said individual for confirming proper delivery of said e-mail is sent to an e-mail address.

**280. (New)** The system as recited in claim 278, wherein said recipient data is contained in a data file, said data file being stored on said storage of said computer.

**281. (New)** The system as recited in claim 278, wherein recipient data pertaining to said recipient of e-mail is stored on said storage prior to said access event.

**282. (New)** The system as recited in claim 278, wherein said at least part of said discovered recipient data for confirming proper delivery of said e-mail is sent to an e-mail address.

**283. (New)** The system as recited in claim 278, wherein said access event comprises access of a delivered e-mail.

**284. (New)** The system as recited in claim 278, wherein said access event comprises access of an e-mail account associated with the e-mail address to which said e-mail was delivered.

**285. (New)** The system as recited in claim 278, wherein said access event comprises activation of an e-mail processing software associated with the e-mail address to which said e-mail was delivered.

**286. (New)** The method as recited in claim 257 wherein the step of sending the discovered data file for confirming proper delivery of said e-mail includes the steps of:

a) generating a confirmation of receipt notice wherein the discovered data file is included with said confirmation of receipt notice; and

b) sending said confirmation of receipt notice, wherein the identifying data in the discovered data file that is included with said confirmation of receipt notice can be compared to information associated with said intended recipient in order to verify whether the email was accessed by the intended recipient.

**287. (New)** The method as recited in claim 272 wherein the step of sending at least part of said discovered recipient data for confirming proper delivery of said e-mail includes the steps of:

a) generating a confirmation of receipt notice wherein the discovered recipient data is included with said confirmation of receipt notice; and

b) sending said confirmation of receipt notice, wherein the discovered recipient data included with said confirmation of receipt notice can be compared to information associated with said intended recipient in order to verify whether the email was accessed by the intended recipient.

**288. (New)** The method as in claim 287, wherein said confirmation of receipt notice is sent to an e-mail address.

**289.** (New) The method as in claim 272, wherein said access event comprises access of said e-mail that was delivered to said recipient e-mail address.

**290. (New)** The method as in claim 272, wherein said access event comprises access of an e-mail account associated with said recipient e-mail address.

**291. (New)** The method as in claim 272, wherein said access event comprises activation of an e-mail processing software associated with said recipient e-mail address.

1       **292. (New)** The method as in claim 272, wherein the step of transmitting an e-mail from a  
2 sender computer includes attaching an executable attachment file in conjunction with the e-mail  
3 file, the executable attachment file having a first module for discovering the stored recipient data  
4 that is associated with said recipient, and wherein the step of detecting an access event includes the  
5 step of executing the first module of the executable attachment.

6

7       **293. (New)** The method as in claim 292, wherein the executable attachment file has a second  
8 module transmitted and delivered therewith, the second module for detecting the access event, and  
9 further comprising the step of:

10              automatically executing the second module upon delivery of the attachment file to said  
11 recipient e-mail address.

12

13       **294. (New)** The method as in claim 272, wherein said recipient e-mail address is associated with  
14 a recipient computer.

15

16       **295. (New)** The method as in claim 294, wherein said recipient computer is a server of a service  
17 provider.

18

19       **296. (New)** The method as in claim 294, wherein said recipient computer is a user system that is  
20 directly accessible by a recipient, said user system including electronic mail processing software.

21

22       **297. (New)** The method as in claim 272, wherein a remote user computer may be used to gain  
23 remote access to said recipient e-mail address.

24

25       **298. (New)** The method as in claim 272, wherein said computer on which said recipient data is  
26 stored is a recipient computer.

1       **299. (New)** The method as in claim 272, wherein said computer on which said recipient data is  
2        stored is a remote user computer.

3  
4       **300. (New)** The method as in claim 272, wherein said recipient data is contained in a data file, said  
5        data file being stored on said storage element of said computer.

6  
7       **301. (New)** The method as in claim 272, wherein said storage element comprises of a hard disk drive.

8  
9       **302. (New)** The method as in claim 272, wherein said storage element comprises of a memory module.

10  
11      **303. (New)** The method as in claim 272, wherein recipient data pertaining to said recipient of e-  
12        mail is stored on said storage element prior to said access event.

13  
14      **304. (New)** The method as in claim 272, wherein said stored recipient data pertains to  
15        alphanumeric text identification, biometric identification, password identification, a computer  
16        generated user code, or a combination thereof.

17  
18      **305. (New)** The method as in claim 272, wherein said stored recipient data comprises identity  
19        information that identifies an individual.

20  
21      **306. (New)** The method as in claim 305, wherein said identity information pertains to biometric  
22        identification.

23  
24      **307. (New)** The method as in claim 306 further comprising the step of recognizing biometric  
25        attributes of an individual.

1       **308.** **(New)** The method as in claim 305, wherein said identity information includes  
2        alphanumeric text identification data .

3

4       **309.** **(New)** The method as in claim 272, wherein said stored recipient data includes information  
5        that identifies a business.

6

7       **310.** **(New)** The method as in claim 272, wherein said stored data includes information that  
8        identifies an organization.

9

10      **311.** **(New)** The method as in claim 272, wherein said stored recipient data includes a computer  
11        generated user code.

12

13      **312.** **(New)** The method as in claim 272 further including the step of sending access event data of  
14        attendant conditions of said access event.

15

16      **313.** **(New)** The method as in claim 272, wherein said recipient is an individual.

17

18      **314.** **(New)** The method as in claim 272, wherein said recipient is a business.

19

20      **315.** **(New)** The method as in claim 272, wherein said recipient is an organization.

21

22      **316.** **(New)** The method as in claim 272, wherein said sent recipient data is used to verify proper  
23        delivery of legal documents.

24

25      **317.** **(New)** The method as in claim 272, wherein said sent recipient data is used to verify proper  
26        delivery of confidential documents.

27

1       **318. (New)** The method as in claim 272, wherein said at least part of the discovered recipient  
2       data for confirming proper delivery of said e-mail is sent to an e-mail address.

3  
4       **319. (New)** The method as recited in claim 256, wherein said identifying data for confirming  
5       proper delivery of said e-mail is sent to an e-mail address.

6  
7       **320. (New)** The method as recited in claim 256, wherein said data file is stored on a computer  
8       associated with e-mail retrieval.

9  
10      **321. (New)** The method as in claim 235, wherein said confirmation of receipt notice is sent to  
11       an e-mail address.

12  
13      **322. (New)** The method as in claim 256, wherein said identifying data contained in said stored  
14       data file pertains to alphanumeric text identification, biometric identification, password  
15       identification, a computer generated user code, or a combination thereof.

16  
17      **323. (New)** The method as in claim 257, wherein said data file is sent to an e-mail address.

18  
19      **324. (New)** The method as in claim 257, wherein said data file is stored on a computer  
20       associated with e-mail retrieval.

21  
22      **325. (New)** The method as in claim 286, wherein said confirmation of receipt notice is sent to  
23       an e-mail address.

24  
25      **326. (New)** The method as in claim 257, wherein said identifying data contained in said stored  
26       data file pertains to alphanumeric text identification, biometric identification, password

1 identification, a computer generated user code, or a combination thereof.

2

3 327. (New) The method as in claim 236, wherein said recipient data for confirming proper

4 delivery of said e-mail is sent to an e-mail address.

5

6 328. (New) The method as in claim 236, wherein a remote user computer may be used to gain

7 remote access to said recipient e-mail address.

8

9 329. (New) The method as in claim 236 wherein the party that is associated with said access

10 event is an individual.

11

12 330. (New) The method as in claim 236 wherein the party that is associated with said access

13 event is a business.

14

15 331. (New) The method as in claim 236 wherein the party that is associated with said access

16 event is an organization.

17

18 332. (New) The method as in claim 258 wherein said recipient data for confirming proper delivery

19 of said e-mail is sent to an e-mail address.

20

21 333. (New) The method as in claim 184, wherein said confirmation of receipt notice is sent to

22 an e-mail address.

23

24 334. (New) The method as in claim 258, wherein said inputted recipient data pertains to

25 alphanumeric text identification, biometric identification, password identification, a computer

26 generated user code, or a combination thereof.

**335. (New)** The method as in claim 208, wherein said confirmation of receipt notice is sent to an e-mail address.

**336. (New)** The method as in claim 260, wherein a remote user computer may be used to gain remote access to said recipient e-mail address.

**337. (New)** The method as in claim 219, wherein said identity information includes alphanumeric text identification.

**338. (New)** The method as in claim 237, wherein said confirmation of receipt notice is sent to an e-mail address.

**339. (New)** The method as in claim 268 , wherein said data that identifies said recipient is related to a biometric imprint, alphanumeric text identification, password identification, a computer generated user code, or a combination thereof.

**340. (New)** The method as in claim 268 further comprising the step of recognizing biometric attributes of an individual.

**341. (New)** A method for verifying whether an e-mail sent by a sending party was accessed by an intended recipient, said method comprising:

- a) storing recipient data on a storage element of a computer that is used to access e-mail, said recipient data including identifying data that is associated with a recipient of e-mail;
- b) transmitting an e-mail from a sender computer to an intended recipient, the sender computer being connected to a communications network;

1           c) delivering said e-mail to an e-mail address;  
2           d) detecting an access event and discovering at least part of said stored recipient data that is  
3        associated with said recipient;  
4           e) sending at least part of said discovered recipient data for confirming proper delivery of  
5        said e-mail.

6

7   **342. (New)** The system as in claim 244, wherein said discovered data file for confirming proper  
8        delivery of said e-mail is sent to an e-mail address.

9

10   **343. (New)** The system as in claim 244, wherein said access event comprises access of a  
11        delivered e-mail.

12

13   **344. (New)** The system as in claim 244, wherein said access event comprises access of an e-mail  
14        account associated with the e-mail address to which said e-mail was delivered.

15

16   **345. (New)** The system as in claim 244, wherein said access event comprises activation of an e-  
17        mail processing software associated with the e-mail address to which said e-mail was delivered.

18

19   **346. (New)** The system as in claim 248, wherein said recipient data for confirming proper  
20        delivery of said e-mail is sent to an e-mail address.

21

22   **347. (New)** The system as in claim 252, wherein said individual is identified prior to said access  
23        event.

24

25   **348. (New)** The system as in claim 252, wherein said individual is identified after said access  
26        event.